

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication in the Office Action mailed April 19, 2004, that claims 22-40 are allowed. In this Office Action mailed April 19, 2004, claims 1-6 and 9-21 were rejected on prior art grounds, as set forth on pages 2-6 therein.

By the present amendments, the rejected claims, claims 1-6 and 9-21, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Continuing application directed to the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, only claims 22-40, which were allowed in the Office Action mailed April 19, 2004, remain in the above-identified application.

In view of canceling the rejected claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claim rejection on prior art grounds, set forth in Item 3 bridging pages 2-5 of the Office Action mailed April 19, 2004, is moot. Accordingly, no discussion in connection therewith is needed.

In view of the present amendments, only allowed claims remain in the application. Accordingly, passing of the above-identified to issue, in due course, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135

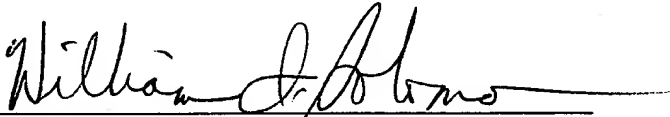
Application No.: 09/893,577

Docket No.: 501.40201X00

(Docket No. 501.40201X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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